(b) if so, whether the standards of Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) for earthquake resistant constructions are being followed; and

(c) if not, whether Government are thinking of issuing guidelines for local municipal authorities and such other agencies to incorporate in their bye laws (BIS) standard and enforce them strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The traditional structures such as Dajji-Diwari construction or wood framed brick noggd construction in Jammu & Kashmir and some parts of Himachal Pradesh, stone construction with horizontal wood log falling in Uttaranchal and bamboo framed construction with irka walling in the North Eastern States are reportedly resistant against moderate to high intensity earthquakes. The multi-storied complexes designed and constructed in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Codes on earthquake resistant design of buildings are considered to be seismically safe.

(b) and (c) The Standard building codes prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards are being followed by most of the Ministries and Departments of the Central Government. A Committee of Experts was constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to develop model building byelaws, town and country planning legislations, zoning regulations and development control regulations for earthquake risk mitigation and management. The report submitted by the said Committee has been circulated to the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations with advice to adapt them to meet the requirements of the States/UTs.

Trade Pact with US and EU

3070. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether PM's Trade and Ecomomic Relationship Committee (TERC) comprising Finance and Commerce Ministers have decided to go slow on bilateral economic/trade agreements with Washington and Brussels;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons that India has agreed to go slow on trade pacts with US & EU and to what extent it will affect our trade relations with these two countries; and

(c) whether the Ministry had pointed out that India's merchandise exports to US and EU would not increase at desired pace if they do not dispense with heavy specific duties on imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Trade and Economic Relations Committee (TERC) decided that India's Economic engagement with US and EU shall be based on a long-term vision.

(c) No Sir.

Capital investment in SEZs by foreign multinational companies

†3071. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign multinational companies including major industrial houses of the country have decided to enhance capital investment in Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the names of the countries alongwith their industrial houses and foreign multinational institutions which have decided for capital investment so far; and

(c) the amount and names of the institutions by which this capital investment would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Some of the multinational companies and major Indian industrial houses who have been given approval for setting up of Special Economic Zones(SEZs) on the basis of proposals received from them include Nokia India Pvt. Ltd. and Hewlett Packard (India) Software Opertaions Pvt. Ltd. (having their parent companies in Finland and USA respectively), WIPRO Ltd., Reliance Industries Ltd., Bicon Ltd., Mahindra and Mahindra, Reliance Energy Generation Limited, Adani Group and Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. The projected investments by these companies for infrastructure development of SEZs would be about Rs. 26,000 crores.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.